

Remarks/Arguments

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Status of Claims

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 48 and 49. Claims 1-14, 16-20 and 41-47 have been rejected. Dependent claims 2, 5-11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19 and 44 have been amended to change the dependency to allowed claim 49. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice, and applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of independent claim 1 in a continuation application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-14, 16-20, and 41-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 4,752,922 to MacAnally, et al. ("MacAnally") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,266,302 to Yamanaka ("Yamanaka") and U.S. Patent No. 6,580,054 to Liu et al. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacAnally and Yamanaka and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,181,224 to Snyder ("Snyder"). Although applicants traverse these rejections, in an effort to expedite allowance, independent claim 1 has been canceled and the dependent claims have been amended to change the dependency to allowed claim 49. Accordingly, applicants request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The claims have been shown to be allowable over the prior art. Applicant believes that this paper is responsive to each and every ground of rejection cited by the Examiner in the Action dated April 5, 2006, and respectfully requests favorable action in this application. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-2121 (Reference Number JPSA001).

Appl. No. 10/782,741
Amendment dated July 5, 2006
Reply to Office action of April 5, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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